

1954

The Florida Historical Society

Florida Historical Society
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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of The Florida Historical Society was held at Tallahassee on March 26 and 27, at the invitation of The Tallahassee Historical Society and Florida State University. Our members and visitors came from various parts of the State including Miami and Pensacola; and there was a large attendance at the program meetings from the Tallahassee district. So it was one of our most successful meetings.

On Thursday afternoon three tours were held to: The State Capitol, other points in Tallahassee, and Natural Bridge Battle Ground.

Our Board of Directors met that evening and a report with recommendations was made to the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday.

Vice President J. Velma Keen presided on Friday morning. The invocation was by the Reverend Sam Neel, Chaplain, Florida State University, and President Doak S. Campbell bid us welcome to the campus; to which President Blocker responded.

Three papers were read: Dr. R. L. Goulding's of the University *Extracts from a Key West Diary*; Dr. Mark F. Boyd's on *Ft. Scott, A Window Overlooking Florida*; and Mrs. Julia Hering read *The Plantation System of Leon County, 1830-1840*.

Vice President Charles T. Thrift presided at the luncheon in the Suwannee Room of the University, and there were reports from local and regional historical societies.

Our former president Richard P. Daniel presided at the afternoon session, with papers *Richard Keith Call, Pioneer Floridian* by Herbert J. Doherty, University of Florida; *Tampa in 1898* by William J. Schellings, University of Miami; and *William Augustus Bowles and the State of Muscogee* by Lyle N. McAlister, University of Florida.

Later in the afternoon our members and visitors went out to the noteworthy Goodwood plantation for tea.

President Blocker was toastmaster at the banquet, also in the Suwannee Room, and the address was *Florida as an Independent Nation* by Col. William Morrison Robinson Jr. (Ret.).

Dr. Rembert W. Patrick presided at the Saturday morning session and the papers were: *Marco Island, Recent History* by Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, University of Miami; *The Tampa Morning Tribune and National Issues, 1900* by Dr. J. Ryan Beiser, University of Tampa.

Several of the papers read will be published in our *Quarterly* from time to time.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Society followed, the Minutes of which is included herewith.

The Society is grateful to the Tallahassee Historical Society and Florida State University and especially to the committee which planned and carried out everything so successfully. These were: Dr. Charles S. Davis, chairman, J. Velma Keen, co-chairman, Dr. Mark F. Boyd, Dr. Dorothy Dodd, Dr. Arlie Rhodes and Margaret Ann Blocker.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Florida State University, Tallahassee, March 27, 1954

President John C. Blocker declared a quorum present and called the Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Historical Society to order at 11:00 A.M.

The first order of business was a telegram from Mr. W. S. Beasley offering the Drew home at Ellaville as a gift to the Society. President Blocker appointed the following as a committee to look into the question of the Drew home and report to the Board of Directors: Charles S. Davis, J. Velma Keen, Mark F. Boyd, David Dunham, Elon C. Robison, Dena Snodgrass and Edward C. Williamson.

The treasurer's report and the budget for 1954-1955 were both read and approved. (*see post*)

Mr. Boyd presented resolutions on the deaths of Miss Mary Douglas Lewis and Albert Hubbard Roberts, of Tallahassee. (*post*)

Miss Snodgrass read a resolution of thanks to Mr. Boyd, to which he expressed his humble thanks and appreciation. (*post*)

The President's report was the next order of business. (*post*) President Blocker then handed the treasurer application blanks and checks for twenty members.

The report of the nominations committee was made by Richard P. Daniel, *Chairman*:-

President - Charles T. Thrift, Jr., Florida Southern College

1st Vice president - J. Velma Keen, Tallahassee

2nd Vice president - David R. Dunham, St. Augustine

Recording Secretary - Dena Snodgrass, Jacksonville

Executive Secretary - Edward C. Williamson, Gainesville

DIRECTORS

First district - Walter P. Fuller, St. Petersburg

Third district - Occie Clubbs, Pensacola

Fifth district - Harley L. Freeman, Ormond Beach

Seventh district - Edward T. Keenan, Frostproof

Director-at-Large - Virgil M. Newton, Jr., Tampa

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Charlton W. Tebeau, University of Miami, *Chairman*

T. T. Wentworth, Jr., Pensacola Richard P. Daniel, Jacksonville

John E. Johns, Stetson University John C. Blocker, St. Petersburg

Mr. Dunham, nominated for Second Vice president, stated he would accept for that office alone, having no desire to advance to the presidency. There were no nominations from the floor and the secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as presented.

Charles T. Thrift, Jr., took the chair.

Mr. Williamson reported on the essay contest. The following were judged by the committee as winners:

First Prize - \$50.00 defense bond

Sandra Lewis, Dan McCarty High School, Fort Pierce,
Florida, "History of White City, Florida."

Second Prize - \$10.00

Mary Elizabeth Falck, Bishop Kenny High School, Jacksonvilleville, Florida, "Zephaniah Kingsley, Famous Floridian."

Third Prize - \$5.00

Patricia Jean Tessman, Palm Beach High School, West Palm Beach, Florida, "Living History and a Living Historian."

Mr. Blocker moved that it be recommended to Mr. Yonge that the essays be printed in the *Quarterly*. Amendment was made to read: the essays or digests thereof be printed in the *Quarterly*. Motion was seconded and passed. During the discussion of the motion Mr. Williamson brought out his hope that a *Junior Quarterly* be initiated within the foreseeable future. Mrs. Kohl of West Palm Beach offered to pay the expenses of duplicating (by mimeograph) the winning papers and any others judged worthy.

An invitation was received to meet in Daytona Beach as guest of Daytona Beach and Volusia County Historical Society in 1955.

The St. Augustine Historical Society extended an informal invitation for the Florida Historical Society meeting in 1956 on the occasion of the Society's centennial.

Meeting adjourned 12:00 M.

JOHN C. BLOCKER

D ENA SNODGRASS

President

Recording Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT, 1953-1954

JOHN C. BLOCKER, *President*

*To The Board of Director and the members of The Florida
Historical Society:*

As outgoing President, I think you are entitled to have a

brief report of activities during the year just concluded.

1. The Society is now enjoying the largest membership in its history. We have more than 860 members and library subscriptions to the *Quarterly*. This has only been accomplished through the aid of fellow officers and of you members. There was instituted for the first time, last Christmas, an opportunity for the members to give a membership in the Society, as a Christmas gift to a friend or relative; many responded. It is hoped that this plan will be carried forward for the next Yuletide period. Miss Dena Snodgrass, our late long-time member Albert H. Roberts, J. Velma Keen, T. T. Wentworth, Jr., Edward Keenan, Mrs. Franklin L. Ezell, our Secretary Edward Williamson, and others have been conspicuous in sponsoring applications for membership. Each member is urged to be ever conscious of the need of increasing the membership of our Society. As a final gesture on membership, I hand you herewith 20 new members from St. Petersburg, making our grand total as of now 880 members and library subscriptions to the *Quarterly*.

2. During the year, the Board of Directors, in view of the generous donation on the part of Past President, Richard P. Daniel of the sum of \$50.00 for prize money, instituted an essay contest among the high-school students of Florida, the object of the contest is to encourage them to write essays on some event of local history. The response was most gratifying and we received fifty-four papers and the Committee will soon announce the winners. This is a fine medium of gaining the ear and the intelligence of the high-school students and will serve many purposes in future years. Every student entering the contest is a potential member in years to come. It is sincerely hoped that this program will be continued for many years and in order to insure its operation for the ensuing year, your President donates the sum of \$50.00 as prize money. To insure the contest for the following year Mrs. James T. Hancock of Okeechobee has donated \$50 also.

3. For the first time you have received a *Newsletter*. This idea originated with Edward Williamson, our Executive Secretary and Librarian. The purpose of it is to supply you with fill-in information on happenings and news between issues of the *Quarterly*. We hope you have enjoyed it and that it can be continued.

4. I wish to personally thank the many contributors of material for our Library during the past year. In this connection, Julien Yonge, the Editor of the *Quarterly*, has made some worthy suggestions: "The Library is the cornerstone of the Historical Society". No truer words can be said and, as pointed out by Mr. Yonge, the building of our Library has been somewhat neglected in former years. It is suggested that special recognition be given these benefactors, and others be urged to contribute to the resources of our Library, as Mr. Yonge further adds: "there still is much undiscovered material in the State relating to our early days and it should be procured." If any of you know of any person who has any material, turn in his or her name and use your best efforts to have it forthcoming for our Library.

5. I wish to personally thank the Officers and Directors for the splendid cooperation given me during the year - without your aid and assistance the growth and progress of our Society would not have been accomplished. I would like to particularly compliment Edward C. Williamson, who has done an outstanding, capable, and efficient job, as Executive Secretary and Librarian. He is willing, energetic and intellectually alert for the good of the Society at all times.

6. I would like to recognize and thank, for and in behalf of the Society, Dr. Charles S. Davis, chairman, J. Velma Keen, co-chairman, Dr. Mark F. Boyd, Dr. Dorothy Dodd, Dr. Arlie Rhodes and Margaret Ann Blocker for the interesting program of our Annual Meeting which they planned and carried out.

7. The matter of the Society sponsoring a history of Florida to be written by some of its members and with the view of

having it taught in the elementary grades of Florida schools, should not be abandoned but should be carried forward as one of the unfinished items of business. In this connection, your retiring President, volunteers his services for that purpose and if commissioned by the new Board of Directors, will undertake the task.

8. The Society should give serious thought to obtaining financial aid from the State of Florida through appropriate legislation. Without burdening you with detail, it is a fact, however, that historical societies in many of our Southern States receive many thousands of dollars annually from legislative appropriation. If a plan could be carried out whereby State aid could be obtained, and the autonomy of the Society maintained, for practical purposes, this, in my opinion, would be a proper solution of our problem; such a proposed piece of legislation was drafted by your President and submitted to your Board of Directors at its meeting here on March 25, 1954 with the recommendation that it be considered by that body and carried over as an unfinished item of business for the new Board of Directors.

9. It would be amiss not to pay just tribute to Past President Mark F. Boyd who was commissioned by this Society to conduct a research and to prepare a report of historic sites in and adjacent to the Jim Woodruff Reservoir. The National Park Service granted the Society \$500.00 for which we are indeed grateful. His paper on this subject has been recognized by the Smithsonian Institution which, I am advised, will publish it.

10. The activity of local historical societies has been stressed and publicized from time to time in the *Quarterly* and need not be repeated here, suffice it to say that there has been a renewed activity in such groups, particularly in Jacksonville, Daytona Beach, Tavares, Miami, Pensacola, Tallahassee and St. Lucie County, all of which is most encouraging and is evidence that historical interest is being activated throughout Florida at the local level.

11. Under the head of official visitations, your President visited the Historical Association of Southern Florida and gave a paper entitled "Piracy in Southern Waters" at its Annual Meeting in Coral Gables on January 14, 1954.

12. Our First Vice-President, Charles T. Thrift, during the month of May, while your President was abroad, participated, as a representative of the Society, at the unveiling of a tablet commemorating the settlement of the Townsend House Church Community in Pasco County, for which Dr. Thrift and the Society received many compliments from that community.

In conclusion, I wish to again thank you individual members and the officers for the contribution of your generous efforts, on behalf of the Society and your President, in making this one of the outstanding years of achievement of the Florida Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. BLOCKER, *President*

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

March 24, 1953 -March 23, 1954

Balance: March 24, 1953	\$1,795.06
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Location of balance:

Florida Bank at Gainesville	\$ 891.37
First Federal Building and Loan	818.69
Cash on hand	85.00

\$1,795.06

Receipts:

Membership dues	\$2,328.00
Library subscriptions to the <i>Quarterly</i>	482.40
Fellow dues	310.00
Institution dues	100.00
Books sold	67.00
Student members	8.00
National Park Service	450.00
Richard P. Daniel	50.00
<i>Quarterlys</i> sold	125.10
Interest	28.73
Total receipts	\$3,949.23

Total to be accounted for	\$5,744.29
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Disbursements:

Printing of <i>Quarterly</i> , 4 issues	\$2,398.00	
Printing (other)	208.73	
Books purchased and memberships	84.63	
Book repairs	45.55	
To Yale University for books sold	59.50	
Library of Congress cards	16.33	
National Park Service Project	500.75	
Office and library supplies, box rent, postage, news-letter, mimeograph ma- chine repair, bank service charge, taxes, express	281.23	
Annual meeting expense	43.00	
Total disbursements		\$3,638.62

Balance March 23, 1954: \$2,105.67

Location of balance:

Florida Bank at Gainesville	\$ 858.25
First Federal Building and Loan	1,247.42
(Endowment Fund)	

\$2,105.67

BUDGET

March 24, 1954 -March 23, 1955

Cash balance, checking account, March 24, 1954 \$ 858.25

Estimated income:

Membership dues	
Annual	\$2,640.00
Libraries (subscriptions to <i>Quarterly</i>)	444.00
Student	8.00
Fellow	400.00
Sale of <i>Quarterly</i> (single copies)	100.00
National Park Service (owed on Jim Woodruff Historical Project)	50.00
Interest from endowment fund	36.00
Total estimated income	\$3,678.00

Total available funds \$4,536.25

Estimated expenses:

Publications:

From members	\$2,500.00	
From <i>Quarterly</i> subscriptions	400.00	\$2,900.00
Printing (other)		200.00
Annual meeting expense		50.00
Books, bookbinding, subscriptions and dues		125.00

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Office supplies and general expense	200.00	
Essay contest (expenses)	50.00	
News-Letter	50.00	
Total estimated expense		\$3,575.00
Estimated balance, March 24, 1955		<u>\$ 961.25</u>

RESOLUTIONS

MARK F. BOYD

During the past twenty years years Mark F. Boyd of Tallahassee has made many contributions to the recorded history of Florida. Notable among these are his co-authorship of *HERE THEY ONCE STOOD*; his definitive articles published in the *FLORIDA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY* and other journals; his services as Historian, Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials and his historical survey of the Jim Woodruff Reservoir Project.

Dr. Boyd has been a member of the Florida Historical Society since 1933 and has served actively in various official capacities. He was elected to the Presidency in 1946 and his splendid leadership revived the Society following a period of dormancy during World War II; be it therefore

RESOLVED that The Florida Historical Society, in annual meeting assembled, this March 27, 1954, express its appreciation to Dr. Boyd for the great service he has rendered to the Society and to the history of Florida

- - -

MARY DOUGLAS LEWIS

Whereas, Miss Mary Douglas Lewis of Tallahassee, a member of the Florida Historical Society since its revival, has recently passed to her reward, and

Whereas Miss Lewis was always a devoted and esteemed member of the Society, whose absence from our gathering is keenly felt and lamented,

Be it Resolved by the Members of the Florida Historical Society assembled in Tallahassee in the 1954 Annual Meeting that this expression of their appreciation be spread upon the Minutes of this meeting, and a copy sent to the bereaved members of her family.

- - -

ALBERT HUBBARD ROBERTS

Whereas, Albert Hubbard Roberts, one of the Florida Historical Society's oldest members in interest and service, having been with us since our revival more than thirty years ago, having served as a director for many years, and as a contributor of noteworthy articles to our *Quarterly*, and as a member of our Nominating Committee for this Annual Meeting; and

Whereas through the years he was devoted to the interests of the Society, and has recently passed to his reward,

Be it Resolved by the Members of the Florida Historical Society assembled in Tallahassee in the 1954 Annual Meeting, that this expression of

esteem and appreciation of his faithful service be spread upon the Minutes of this meeting, and a copy sent to the bereaved members of his family.

PASCUA FLORIDA

Today, March 27, marks the beginning of Pascua Florida, so named for the Easter Season, or the Festival of the Flowers, during which time Florida was discovered by Juan Ponce de Leon in 1513.

This week has been designated Florida Week, and April 2, the day of discovery, Florida Day, by executive proclamation.

Because of the value of Florida's history in all phases of life in the growing state, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the Florida Historical Society, in annual meeting assembled, this March 27, 1954, publicly point out the opportunity of commemorating the State's vivid past in the observance of this week and day.

Members who came to Tallahassee for the Annual Meeting

<i>From Daytona Beach</i>	<i>Ormond Beach</i>
Mrs. John E. Hebel	Lucile Bailey Mahieu
<i>DeLand</i>	<i>Palm Beach</i>
John E. Johns	Mrs. Clyde W. Fisher
Arthur C. Nielsen	Mrs. Henry Lavinia Kohl
<i>Gainesville</i>	<i>Pensacola</i>
David Dowd	Mrs. T. T. Wentworth, Jr.
Herbert J. Doherty	T. T. Wentworth, Jr.
Freeman H. Hart	<i>Quincy</i>
Mrs. M. H. Latour	Elise Lafitte
Lyle N. McAlister	Col. William M. Robinson, Jr.
George C. Osborn	<i>St. Augustine</i>
Rembert W. Patrick	David R. Dunham
Samuel Proctor	<i>St. Petersburg</i>
Arthur Thompson	John C. Blocker
Edward C. Williamson	Mrs. Nina Hill Blocker
Donald E. Worcester	Walter P. Fuller
<i>Jacksonville</i>	<i>Shady Grove</i>
Richard P. Daniel	Mrs. W. T. Cash
Fannie Holt	<i>Tampa</i>
Dena Snodgrass	J. Ryan Beiser
<i>Homosassa</i>	James W. Covington
Mrs. J. A. MacRae	Jesse L. Keene
<i>Lakeland</i>	<i>Warrington</i>
Charles T. Thrift, Jr.	Mrs. Maude Hollowell
Miami	<i>Bainbridge, Ga.</i>
Justin P. Harvee	Frank S. Jones
W. J. Schellings	<i>Cuthbert</i>
Frank B. Sessa	Mrs. Emilio Suarez
Charlton W. Tebeau	<i>Tifton</i>
<i>Okeechobee</i>	Donald G. Lester
Mrs. J. T. Hancock	<i>Jamestown, N. Y.</i>
	Dr. F. K. Weedon